



# Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

## *City of Somerville, MA*

### BACKGROUND


EPA awarded the City of Somerville supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Somerville, just three miles north of Boston, is the most densely populated city in Massachusetts, with approximately 76,000 inhabitants living in a 4.2 square mile area. Approximately 17 percent of the land in the city is used for commercial and industrial purposes. The high residential density leaves the city a low percentage of open space to provide for the recreational needs of its citizens. In addition, the pattern of land use in the city has left many brownfields interspersed among residential neighborhoods.

The goal of Somerville's brownfields project is to improve the quality of life for its citizens, create new jobs, and contribute to the commercial tax base. The original Pilot offered environmental site testing services to private developers to facilitate economic end uses for brownfields sites. Of the sites targeted, one has been transformed into 97 units of assisted living space for low income seniors, and three are in various stages of environmental testing and redevelopment planning. Another three contiguous parcels of land, considered a single site, have been identified for reuse as a day-care facility; however, the city cannot complete work on these three sites without additional funding.

### OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The city will use supplemental assistance to expand on the original Pilot, which took a private-sector oriented approach focusing on economic reuses, to include residential and open space brownfields redevelopment projects. The supplemental assistance will be used to conduct assessments at the site of a proposed day-care facility and three additional sites. The city expects to support a residential development of between three and ten housing units at one site, commercial development creating between ten and twenty jobs at another site,

#### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*City of Somerville,  
Massachusetts*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2002

**Amount:** \$ 150,000

**Profile:** The supplemental assistance will be used to expand brownfields redevelopment projects to include residential, recreational, and other non-commercial activities.

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**Contacts:**

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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

and an acre of open space at a third site. Supplemental funds also will be used to complete a major upgrade to the city's inventory of known brownfields.

*Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:*

- Updating the citywide inventory of brownfields sites;
- Conducting environmental site testing and redevelopment planning on four selected sites; and

- Conducting outreach and community involvement activities.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*